

From: Jim Warren [jim@ncwarn.org]
Sent: 1/11/2018 7:30:14 PM
To: Jim Warren [jim@ncwarn.org]
Subject: [External] Huge: NASA study shows Duke Energy gas expansion is disastrous

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Friends,

We sent this to hundreds of reporters, editors after conferring with a scientist ally and also learning that NASA didn't issue a press release as it usually does (perhaps due to Trump pressures?). NASA did post a summary of this in-depth study on its web page, but framed it in a way that doesn't emphasize the incredibly important impact. This study cinches the case against utilities' expansion of "natural" gas – although I'm sure we'll have to keep fighting the gas-power industry's suppression of corporate, public and even independent media coverage.

I welcome any questions or feedback. Please circulate, and thanks!
Jim



NOTE TO EDITORS
January 10, 2018

From: Jim Warren
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New NASA study shows that fracking of natural gas and oil is key driver of climate change

This is further proof that Duke Energy's Atlantic Coast Pipeline and more fracked gas power plants are disastrous for the climate

A bombshell new study by NASA concludes that methane emissions from the oil and gas industry have grown rapidly and are a key driver of global warming. The findings support many earlier studies, and bolster the argument that a huge rise in super-potent methane emissions is linked to soaring global temperatures in recent years.

This is further evidence that utilities' massive expansion of fracked natural gas pipelines and power plants is driving humanity toward the cliff to climate chaos.

Here is a [very good summary](#) of the new NASA study from Think Progress.

NASA found that two-thirds of the sharp rise in global methane emissions in the past decade is from fossil fuels – and the increase is “substantially larger” than previously thought.

The sharp increase in methane emissions correlates closely with the US fracking boom.

NASA’s study adds to the urgency of openly and fully addressing the climate implications of the enormous expansion of fracked natural gas power plants and pipelines by Duke Energy and other US utilities. Leaking and venting of unburned gas – which is mostly methane – makes natural gas even worse for the climate than coal.

NASA’s study supports scientists such as Cornell’s Dr. Robert Howarth, who emphasizes that cutting methane emissions can immediately help slow global warming, compared to the decades-long impacts of carbon dioxide.

As Dr. Howarth says, the expanded use of natural gas for electricity – especially fracked gas – is “disastrous” for the climate.

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Now in its 30th year, NC WARN is building people power in the climate and energy justice movement to persuade or require Charlotte-based Duke Energy – one of the world’s largest carbon polluters – to make a quick transition to renewable, affordable power generation and energy efficiency in order to avert climate tipping points and ongoing rate hikes.

Building large power plants is making the climate crisis worse – by squandering precious years and dollars that should be going toward energy efficiency, renewables and energy storage.

Jim Warren, Executive Director

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